

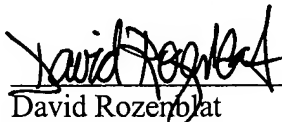
Cont  
A1  
wherein the needle is bendable when the shield part and the handle part are locked together, whereby the bendable needle provides a biasing effect between the locking mechanism on the shield part and the handle part, and whereby the bendable needle closely abuts on the shield to ensure that unintended contact with the needle is avoided.

---

**REMARKS**

With this Amendment, the application is in condition for early action on the merits. Should the Examiner deem a telephone conference to be helpful in expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



David Rozenblat  
Registration No. 47,044  
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE  
P.O. BOX 10395  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610  
(312) 321-4200